3rd November 1931]

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I ask whether the Government of the hon. the Law Member has since received the proposal of the High Court Judges with regard to retrenchment in their salaries? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I ask whether the arrears in the High Court are being satisfactorily reduced? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Attempts are made in that direction."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know what steps the Government propose to take in order to lessen the arrears? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The Judges are devoting their full attention to this question."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to state what retrenchment has been effected in the High Court establishment? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" It is left to the discretion of the Chief Justice under the Letters Patent."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I ask if the hon. Member is aware that since the Master of the High Court has been appointed, the work of the Judges has been considerably reduced, as the Master has taken over a good deal work? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Not with reference to the important portion of the work of the Judges."

Transfer of Sarishtadars of District Courts.

* 569 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether any representation has been made in the current year by the Bar Associations in the Presidency to the Government of Madras on the subject of transfer of District Court Sarishtadars who have served for more than three years at a station and what action has been taken thereon ?

A.—No such representation has been received. Under the Madras Civil Courts Act, III of 1873, the transfer of Sarishtadars of District Courts is a matter within the discretion of the High Court.

Electricity

Electrification of Salem and Erode.

* 570 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) at what stage the electrification of Salem and Erode is;

(*b*) when will the work be actually finished;

(*c*) when the electric power from Pykara will be introduced to these towns;

(*d*) if electric power from Pykara is brought in, what will be the rate for each unit; and

(*e*) whether there is any feasibility to develop electricity from Mettur dam when it is completed?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government lines have already been laid. The licensees expect to supply electricity to Salem by December 1931. It cannot be said at present when the supply to Erode will commence.

(*c*) It is expected that power from Pykara will be supplied in April 1933.

(*d*) Such rates as may from time to time be fixed, with the approval of the Government, subject to the maximum rates specified in clause 27 of the Fourth Annexure to the Salem-Erode Electric Licence, 1931, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 6th January 1931.

(*e*) Yes.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar :—" May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to develop electricity at Mettur? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" There is some such idea."

Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Has the Octavius Steel Company applied for extending their licence to various other parts than those for which they have already taken the licence? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Notice, Sir."

Prisons

Alleged complaints against Mr. Howe, Superintendent of the Vizagapatam Jail.

* 571 *Q.*—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) when Mr. Howe was transferred to Vizagapatam Jail;

(*b*) the number and class of jail offences and nature of punishments awarded from the date of his assumption of duties till the 15th July 1931;

(*c*) the number of complaints, signed, anonymous and pseudonymous, received by the Government and Inspector-General of Prisons about the affairs of Vizagapatam Jail from the said date;

(*d*) what are, in general, the complaints narrated therein;

(*e*) what action the Inspector-General of Prisons or the Government have taken on them; and

(*f*) how many times the Inspector-General visited the jail during the period?